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therefore prayed that Government might be pleased to sanction an increased grant of Rs. 900 for the current year and to continue it until the finances reached a flourishing condition. He requested that, in addition to the above grant, Government might be pleased to sanction a lump grant of Rs. 5,000 to meet urgent requirements.

Mr. P. J. John (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Alleppey) stated that the town of Alleppey was not kept in a neat condition. The town was a big commercial centre and port in the State, and as such many people crowded there for commercial purposes. Therefore, there was every likelihood of its being visited by epidemics and other dis ases, if the town be not constantly kept clean. In order to properly carry out the work of sanitation in the town, more funds were necessary. The Member requested that Government might be pleased to increase the grant to the T. I. C. at Alleppey to enable it to carry on the work of sanitation more systematically and thus keep the town neat and clean.

Dewan's reply.—Government are not prepared to increase the grants already sanctioned. The Committees must work up local taxation to meet their local needs.

44. *Savings after expenditure from the item "Town Funds"*

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, T. I. C., Quilon) requested that the annual savings after expenditure, from the item "Town Fund," might be added to that Fund and made available for the Committee whenever required.

Dewan's reply.—This is done now. Government do not appropriate the unexpended balance of the "Town Fund".

Mr. Krishnan Pandalay (Member, Quilon Taluk) being asked, said that the money was *not* available to the Committee. The Committee had addressed Government on the subject nearly half a dozen times and they were told in reply 'no', of course without assigning reasons.

Dewan.—I shall look up the papers.

45. *Exclusion of qualified Christian Medical men.*

Mr. N. E. Varghese (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association) represented that recently an apppli-cation from a qualified member of the Christian community for employment in the Medical Department was rejected on the ground that too many of his class had already been appointed to the Department and that preference should be given to Ezhavas, Mahomedans and Brahmins. He said that his community were well aware of the non-sectarian spirit of the present administration and it was the recognition of this impartiality that made the spirit of the endorsement the more disappointing to them.

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He added that there would certainly have been no room for complaint if a number of places in each of such Departments, where a particular religious conviction was not required as a qualification, had been reserved for Christians in proportion to their ratio to the total population of the State. The Government had, in their remarks at the Fourth Assembly, on the subject of " Christians and the Public Service ", stated as follows:— " Till it is possible to throw open the Revenue Department to Christians, it will continue to be the policy of Government to employ them in other Departments to an extent which will, to some extent, compensate them for their exclusion from the Land Revenue Department ". The Member contended that the only rational principle by which the Government could, under the circumstances, be guided, was the principle of compensation which it had already recognised. Generally, appointments in the lower grades of the service were mostly appropriated by members of communities other than the Christian. This would be evident, if lists were called for showing the proportion of the appointments held by the different classes in the State. He prayed that such lists might be called for and till it was found from such lists that there was the least approach to a proportionate representation of Christians in all the grades of the service, till then it would be unjust to deny appointments to Christians in Departments where alone they could hope to secure places by their culture and special training. If service in the State was to depend upon qualification alone, Christians would be well content to stand on their own merits. If, on the other hand, the public service was to depend upon class representation, then he requested that the Departments open to the Christian community might be clearly specified and that a definite proportion of appointments might be allotted to them in all grades in the Departments for which they were eligible.

Dewan's reply.—On 13th July 1908, it was found that, out of 87 officers of all grades in the Medical Department, 53 were Christians, 23 were Sudras, 8 were Brahmins, 2 were Mahomedans and one was an Ezhava. Government felt that, for some time to come, preference should be given to Brahmins, Mahomedans and Ezhavas, provided that they were natives of Travancore. The Darbar Physician was instructed accordingly. After this, two appointments were made in the Medical Department, of which one was given to a Brahmin and the other to a Christian.

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